

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00341 051403Z

61

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00

/079 W

----- 036222

R 051200Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2184

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 341

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, MV

SUBJ: MALDIVIAN PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR AID

1. IN DISARMINGLY INGENUOUS LETTER DATED JAN 24, PRIME MINISTER ZAKI OF MALDIVES HAS APPEALED TO AMB FOR ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP HULULE AIRPORT IN MALE ATOLL. SAYING, JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES, HE "WOULD PREFER TO TAP' KNOWN DEVILS'" BEFORE HE "WOULD EVER TAP OR RECEIVE MAJOR DONATIONS OF GIFTS FROM "UNKNOWN DEVILS," ZAKI MAKES STRONG PLEA FOR TAR AND BITUMEN TO COVER RUNWAY AND FOR PREFABRICATED CONTROL TOWER. THESE, HE FEELS, ARE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE RELIABLE AIRLINK TERMINAL TO SUPPORT MALDIVES DEVELOPING TOURIST TRADE, AN IMPORTANT ADDITION TO COUNTRY'S VERY LIMITED ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

2. DETAILS OF REQUEST PROVIDED BY PRIME MINISTER ARE:

A) SUFFICIENT BITUMEN, GRADE 80/100, AND TAR, VARIETY MCO (CUT BACK), TO COVER 7,000-FOOT RUNWAY; AND B) PREFABRICATED CONTROL TOWER SIMILAR TO THOSE MANUFACTURED BY VISIONINDUSTRIES INC OF CANADA, MODELS CT-250, CT-350, AND CT-450. PM NOTES THAT BRITISH HAVE AGREED TO OFFER NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY TO CONSTRUCT AND  
CONFIDENTIAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COLOMB 00341 051403Z

MAINTAIN AIRPORT RUNWAY, (WHICH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HERE,

WAY, (WHICH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HERE,  
CONFIRMS).

3. AS REQUEST IS IN FORM OF PERSONAL APPEAL FROM PRIME  
MINISTER, WE HOPE WASHINGTON AGENCIES WILL  
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND WAY TO PROVIDE SOME POSITIVE  
RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST. IN ADDITION TO REFERENCE TO  
"DEVILS," ZAKI ALSO COMMENTED IN LETTER THAT HE IS MAKING  
"HONEST EFFORT TO TRY AND MAINTAIN MY GOVERNMENT'S HUMBLE  
POLICY OF TRYING "TO REMAIN AS WE ARE" WHILE TEMPERATURES  
AND PRESSURES CONTINUE TO RISE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD."  
THESE STATEMENTS MAY INDICATE UNEASINESS MALDIVIANS  
FEEL IN CHANGING WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND FROM  
INCREASING PRESSURES FROM SOVIET UNION AND PLODIA, WHICH  
HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ACTIVE IN MALDIVES. AT SAME TIME,  
PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH BRITISH IS BEING FUNDAMENTALLY  
ALTERED BY BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM RAF GAN. ZAKI COMMENTS  
ALSO INDICATE DESIRE ON PART OF MALDIVIANS FOR US TO

PLAY ROLE IN MALDIVIAN AFFAIRS, HOWEVER LIMITED, IN ORDER  
OFFSET OTHER EXTERNAL PRESSURES.

4. PRIME MINISTER ZAKI INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO  
RECEIVE US NAVAL SHIP VISITS DURING AMB'S VISIT  
TO MALE LAST JULY. BECAUSE OF THIS, PROXIMITY OF  
MALDIVES TO DIEGO GARCIA, AND DECISION TO MAINTAIN  
INCREASED US NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN FROM TIME  
TO TIME, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN US INTEREST TO  
PROVIDE LIMITED GESTURE OF SUPPORT TO MALDIVIAN GOVT.  
WE HAVE DONE VERY LITTLE FOR MALDIVIANS WHO  
UNDOUBTEDLY COME CLOSE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LDC'S. DE-  
PARTMENT WILL RECALL WE HAD EARLIER INDICATED INABILITY TO  
ASSIST MALDIVIANS IN CIVIL AVIATION FIELD BUT AGREED TO  
CONSIDER FUTURE REQUESTS THE GOM MIGHT MAKE. NOW THAT WE  
HAVE SPECIFIC REQUEST, BELIEVE SMALL AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE COULD  
DO MUCH TO ENABLE GOM TO MAINTAIN POLICY  
OF BALANCED NON-ALIGNMENT AND THUS AVOID NEED TO  
DEPEND ON ONLY LIMITED NUMBER EXTERNAL POWERS. ASSISTANCE

CONFIDENTIAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COLOMB 00341 051403Z

WOULD ALSO PROVIDE FIRMER BASIS FOR OUR EXISTING FRIENDLY  
BUT MINIMAL RELATIONS.

5. EMBASSY PLANS TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF PRIME MINISTER'S  
LETTER AND WILL FORWARD COPY TO WASHINGTON. REQUEST  
WASHINGTON PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO RESPOND TO PRIME MINISTER'S  
REQUEST AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.  
VAN HOLLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, AIRPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975COLOMB00341  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750042-0588  
**From:** COLOMBO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750271/aaaadlye.tel  
**Line Count:** 113  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MALDIVIAN PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR AID  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EAID, MV  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006